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Thailand

Grain and Feed

Weekly Rice Price Update

2005

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Report Highlights:

Export prices for white rice increased somewhat further in response to concerns over the continued strengthening of the Thai Baht and limited exportable supplies.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Bangkok [TH1]
[TH]

Indicative Prices (Week Ending Jan. 4):

Thailand: Export (FOB) Prices for various grades of rice (USD/M.T.)									
	Exporter Observations							Period Avg.	
	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	#7	CUR.	PRV.
F WR 100 B	445	430	445	452	450	425	420	438	440
WR 100 B	290	287	287	290	288	288	288	288	287
PB 5%	280	281	290	289	289	290	280	286	284
WR 5%	285	282	283	285	283	283	283	283	282
WR 10%	282	277	280	282	281	280	278	280	280
WR 15%	275	273	275	280	278	278	273	276	275
WR 25%	267	262	270	277	259	260	268	266	265
WR 35%	264	258	-	274	257	258	263	262	261
A 1 SUP	223	225	-	220	226	227	218	223	222
A 1 SPEC	222	224	-	218	224	-	216	221	219
Source: Average actual prices received from exporters									

Market Tone

The market opened with quiet foreign demand, as Thai rice prices remained high due mainly to limited exportable supplies resulting from the government intervention program. Export prices for white rice were offered higher slightly in response to upward pressure from the strengthening of the Thai Baht to around 38.8 Baht/US\$, as compared to the average of around 39.0 Baht/US\$ in the previous week. Trade sources reported that some exporters were still reluctant to sell at their current quotations due to the concern over the limited supplies.

The following are reported rice exports (as is basis):

WEEK ENDING	QUANTITY	4-WK AVG	YEAR TO DATE	YEAR AGO
	(MT)	(MT)	(TMT)	(TMT)
NOV 21	136,609	180,630	7,101	4,572
NOV 28	159,569	161,757	7,260	4,727
DEC 5	164,956	158,662	7,425	4,818
DEC 12	131,152	148,071	7,556	4,936
DEC 19	112,254	141,983	7,668	5,045
DEC 26	106,103	128,616	7,775	5,177
DEC 31	88,510	-	7,863	5,299
JAN 2	3,045	-	3	5

Note on data: Export figures since March 22, 2002, do not include fragrant rice. The authority to report fragrant rice exports was moved from the Thai Board of Trade to the Ministry of Commerce's Office of Commodity Standards, which does not release official fragrant rice export data. FAS/BKK will report only official export numbers from the Board of Trade for non-fragrant and from the Office of Commodity Standards for fragrant rice when available, but the reader should bear in mind the difference between the data.

Unofficial exports (excluding fragrant rice) during Jan. 1 – Dec. 31, 2004 totaled 7,863,096 tons, compared with 5,299,111 tons during the same period in 2003. Exports during Jan. 1-2, 2005 amounted to 3,045 tons, compared to 4,950 tons in the previous year.

According to the Department of Foreign Trade, Ministry of Commerce, total rice exports (including fragrant rice) during Jan. 1- Dec. 27, 2004, amounted to 10,043,929 tons, up 36 percent from 7,400,983 tons in the previous year.

Weekly Rice Sales

Private registered rice export sales for the period of Dec. 13-17, Dec. 20-24, and Dec. 27-31, 2004 are as follows:

Movement (MT)	Dec. 13-17	Dec. 20-24	Dec. 27-31
weekly sales	75,131	203,363	78,251
4 week sum	594,133	567,386	485,634
4 week mov. avg.	148,533	141,847	121,409
Total weekly sales	8,572,474	8,775,837	8,854,088

End of Report.